The modalities for implementing the scheme and the manner of funding are being finalised by the Planning Commission.

In order to avail assistance under the scheme, the State Governments/ State Electricity Boards/State Utilities will have to formulate viable projects. A Committee constituted by the Planning Commission will monitor the implementation of the project.

Projects Assisted by REC

*377. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has sactioned grant for 79 projects in different states;

(b) if so, the number of projects assisted by REC as well as the achievements made so far; and

(c) what are the future plans of REC for achieving total electrification for rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. REC gives loans for various types of rural electrification schemes.

(c) Planning Commission fixes the financial outlays and physical targets for the States keeping in view the availability of financial resources and other relevant inputs. Further, the progress of rural electrification and the time frame to complete electrification of all the villages would depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating necessary infrastructure systems, availability of power in the States and the demand of the consumers. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides interest bearing loan assistance to the scheme sponsored by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) provided they are technically feasible and financially viable. REC, upto 31st March, 2000 has sanctioned 36034 Rural Electrification Schemes covering various components of rural electrification for a loan outlay of Rs. 21076 crores against which Rs. 16010 crores (provisionally) has been disbursed. Under these schemes 3.04 lakh villages have been electrified and 75.85 lakh pumpsets have been energised (provisionally) as on 31-3-2000.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of 7000 villages during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages at the end of December, 1999. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under RE programme has set a target of energisation of 7,40,000 pumpsets during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved energisation of 6,49,000 pumpsets at the end of December, 1999.

Sale of Power by SEBs

*378. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the State Electricity Boards are forcing the industrial consumers to buy power for their use even when such industries have their own captive power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Central Government would formulate a policy by which crores of Rupees invested for production of captive power is not kept idle due to short term policy of State Electricity Boards and public sector power producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government has not received any complaint from any of the captive power producers of their being forced to buy power from the State Electricity Boards even when they have their own captive power.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Government of India, through a circular letter dated October 9, 1995 has advised the State Governments/State Electricity Boards to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

Economic Development of NF States

*379. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State :